

## Andrew Jackson to John Randolph, April 12, 1832, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### TO JOHN RANDOLPH.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Handwriting of A. J. Donelson. See p. 429n., *ante*.

Washington, April 12, 1832.

*D'r Sir*, I have been so much occupied during the past week as to be obliged to postpone an answer to your favor of the 28th ulto. until now.

Altho the relations of this country with England are at this moment very important I cannot undertake to entrust another minister with the responsibility which they will impose upon him without further advice from Mr. Van Buren. What impression did he make upon the British Government, what assurances of success does he possess, and how are they likely to be affected by his rejection? are considerations which must influence materially the future course of the Govt. in regard to that mission and particularly the selection of the Minister: and they are such as we are not yet able to dispose of for the want of information.

Your suggestions on the subject have been weighed with the respect due to your superior acquaintance with the policy of the British Cabinet but they do not obviate the difficulties to which I have just adverted: and besides are liable to an objection which I must regard as insuperable in the present state of the country. The public mind at this time both at home and abroad would regard the employment of a private agent however competent to manage the important concerns of the United states at that court as an acknowledgement of the weakness of the Executive, which could not fail to discredit the Agent and make it impossible for him to accomplish any thing useful. other various consequences would

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follow which I need not enumerate, but which I know will strike your mind the moment you look at the subject with a view to its political bearing upon the administration.

I can only add on this subject generally that as soon as we have the information which Mr. V Buren will soon communicate in person or in writing shewing the effect of his rejection and the views and feelings of the British Cabinet on the points already opened to this discussion by him, I shall endeavour to select a suitable individual to report on them.